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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/663,833	09/17/2003	Kenichi Manabe	03500.017680.	2698

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EXAMINER	
MCCOMMAS, BRENDAN N	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2625	
MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/663,833	MANABE ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	BRENDAN MCCOMMAS	2625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *19 June 2008*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-14* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-14* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *17 September 2003* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 5/20/2008 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. **Claims 1-14** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tobinaga Hideki (Japanese Patent Publication 11-143139) hereinafter referenced as Hideki, in view of Kayzuki (Japanese Patent Publication 2002-220122).

3. **Regarding claim 1**, Hideki and Kayzuki disclose a sheet feeding apparatus comprising:

4. a sheet supporting portion on which a sheet is placed (Figure 1, item 4, where the manuscript tray is considered a sheet supporting portion; also see [0014]);

5. a feeding member disposed, above said sheet-supporting portion, for feeding out the sheet. (Figure 1, where pickup roller 10 is the feeding means which is positioned above the sheet supporting means 4);

6. a holding member 33a configured to hold said feeding member for rotation and to move the feeding member between a feeding position in which said feeding member is in contact with the sheet placed on said sheet supporting portion and a feeding stop position in which said feeding member is out of contact with the sheet, as disclosed in [0058]-[0059].

7. a separating portion for separating the sheet fed out by said feeding member and feeding the sheet one by one (Figure 1, items 11-12);

8. a regulating member provided between said separation portion and said feeding means (Figure 1, item 14, and also known as the stopper claw) and being movable between a regulating position in which said regulating member regulates movement of the sheet between said sheet supporting portion said separating portion and retracted position in which said regulating member does not hamper the feeding of the sheet. (also see [0015]); a link member (42a and 40 the combination)connected between the holding member and the regulating member, the link member being moved by the holding member to move the regulating member to the retracted position when the holding member moves the feeding member to the feeding position and the link member is moved by the holding member to move the regulating member to the regulating position when the holding member is moved to the feeding stop position, as disclosed in [0057]-[0059], and exhibited in figures 3 and 5; and

9. an openable and closable cover having a guide member for guiding the sheet fed out by said feeding member, wherein said link member is movably mounted through a series of links on said openable and closable cover, and said link member in association with an opening operation of said openable and closable cover so that the regulating member is moved to the retracted position by the link member, as disclosed in [0051]-[0054], [0082]-[0083] and exhibited in figure 1.

2. However Hideki fails to explicitly disclose that the regulating member is manually moved by the opening of the cover wherein the link member is manually moved by the opening movement of the openable and closable cover. However it would have obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include such a modification to the invention of Hideki, as taught by Kazyuki.

3. In a similar field of endeavor Kazyuki discloses a device wherein the regulating member 21 is moved by the opening of the cover wherein the link member 22 is manually moved in accordance with the cover, as disclosed in [0020], [0027] and exhibited in figure 4.

4. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include in the sheet feeding apparatus of Hideki, a regulating member which is moved by the opening of the cover wherein the link member is moved by the cover for the purpose of stopping paper jams, the device could be interfaced to another scanner/copier or fax machine and the feeder device may perform stable feeding, as disclosed in Kayuki [0002] and [0027].

10. **Regarding claim 2**, Hideki and Kayzuki disclose everything claimed as applied above (see claim 1), in addition Hideki discloses an apparatus wherein said link member comprises a first link member movable in operative association with the movement of said holding member, and a second link member movable in operative association with the movement of said first link member to thereby move said regulating member to said regulating position or said retracted position, and wherein a first link member (40) with a cam shape moves against a second link member (42a) where an amount of movement of said regulating member is varied by the cam shape. (see Figures 3 and 7, and [0026]-[0027]).

11. **Regarding claim 3,** Hideki and Kayzuki disclose everything claimed as applied above (see claim 2), in addition Hideki discloses an apparatus wherein the cam shape is such a shape that H>h, where H is the amount of movement of the regulating member until the feeding member protrudes downwardly from the guide member through the holding member when the feeding member feeds out the sheet, and h is the amount of movement of the regulating member after the feeding member has protruded downwardly from the guide member, as disclosed in [0026]. In addition Hideki discloses a pickup driving member (33), which rotates centering on a driving shaft (34), and a cam will push up on the pickup roller (10) through the rocking member (35) and will move the pickup roller in order to ensure that the pickup roller and the stopper claw are set at a correct height (H>h), and reads on claimed “guide member”, as disclosed in [0061], and exhibited in figure 3.

12. **Regarding claim 4**, Hideki and Kayzuki disclose, everything claimed as applied above (see claim 3), in addition Hideki discloses that his automatic manuscript transport device is connected to image formation equipment, comprising:

13. an image reading means(6) which his arranged under contact glass (2) to read an image of an original and reads on claimed image reading means, as disclosed in [0014], and exhibited in figure 1.

14. a separation/feeding means (5) which conveys the separated transcript to the reading means, and comprises a feeding member disposed above said original supporting portion in order to feed out the original as disclosed in paragraph [0014], and exhibited in figure 1.; a holding member 33 configured to hold said feeding member for rotation and to move the feeding member 10 in contact with the sheet placed on said sheet supporting portion and a feeding stop position in which said feeding member is out of contact with the sheet, as disclosed [0058] in and exhibited in figure 3; a separating portion (5) for separating the original fed out by said feeding member and feeding the original one by one to the image reading unit as disclosed in paragraph [0014], and exhibited in figure 1.; a regulating member 14 provided between the separating portion and the feeding member and being movable between a regulating position, in which the regulating member regulates movement of the original placed on the original supporting portion, and a retracted position in which the regulating member does not hamper the feeding of the original, as disclosed in [0067] and exhibited in figure 1; a link member (40 and 42a)connected between the holding member and the regulating member, the link member being moved by the holding member to move the

regulating member to the retracted position when the holding member moves the holding member to the feeding position, the link member being moved by the holding member to move the regulating member to the regulating position when the holding member is moved to the feeding stop position, as disclosed in [0026]-[0027]and exhibited in figure 3; and an openable and closable cover having a guide member for guiding the sheet fed out by the feeding member wherein the link member is movably mounted through a series of links on the openable and closable cover and the link member is moved in association with a manual opening operation of the openable and closable cover, so that the regulating member is moved to the retracted position by the link member and reads on claimed original feeder, as disclosed in [0051]-[0054], [0082]-[0083] and exhibited in figure 1.

1. However Hideki fails to explicitly disclose that the regulating member is manually moved by the opening of the cover wherein the link member is manually moved by the opening movement of the openable and closable cover. However it would have obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include such a modification to the invention of Hideki, as taught by Kazyuki.

2. In a similar field of endeavor Kazyuki discloses a device wherein the regulating member 21 is manually moved by the opening of the cover wherein the link member 22 is moved manually in accordance with the cover, as disclosed in [0020], [0027] and exhibited in figure 4.

3. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include in the sheet feeding apparatus of Hideki, a regulating member

which is moved by the opening of the cover wherein the link member is moved by the cover for the purpose of stopping paper jams, the device could be interfaced to another scanner/copier or fax machine and the feeder device may perform stable feeding, as disclosed in Kayuki [0002] and [0027].

15. **Regarding claim 5**, Hideki and Kayzuki disclose everything claimed as applied above (see claim 4), in addition Hideki discloses the apparatus wherein the link member comprises a first link member movable in operative association with the movement of the holding member, and a second link member movable in operative association with the movement of the first link member to thereby move the regulating member to the regulating position or the retracted position, as disclosed in [0057]-[0059]; and wherein the first link member or the holding member is provided with a cam shape, and an amount of movement of the regulating member moved through the intermediary of the second link member in accordance with the amount of movement of said holding member is varied by the cam shape. (see Figures 3 and 7, and [0026]-[0027]).

16. **Regarding claim 6**, Hideki and Kayzuki disclose everything claimed as applied above (see claim 5), in addition Hideki discloses a guide member 11 which is provided above the original supporting portion and below the feeding member located at the feeding stop position as disclosed in and exhibited in figure 1. In addition claim 6 is further interpreted and thus rejected for the reasons set forth above in the rejection of claim 3.

17. **Regarding claim 7**, Hideki and Kayzuki disclose everything claimed as applied above (see claim 6), in addition Hideki discloses a closing motion covering (103), which can open and close and is formed with the separation/feeding means and reads on claimed "openable and closable cover," as disclosed in [0051-0052] and exhibited in figure 1.

18. **Regarding claim 8**, Hideki and Kayzuki disclose everything claimed as applied above (see claim 7), in addition Hideki discloses a spring (43) which restrains the gearing (23) and reads on claimed, "restraining portion", as disclosed in [0027] and figures 3-4.

19. **Regarding claim 9**, Hideki and Kayzuki disclose everything claimed as applied above (seem claim 8), in addition Hideki discloses that the closing motion covering (103) opens on top of the separating portion (12) and reads on claimed "openable and closable cover," as disclosed in [0051-0052] and figure 1.

20. **Regarding claim 10**, Hideki and Kayzuki disclose everything claimed as applied above (see claims 4-9), in addition Hideki discloses an image forming portion for forming an image on the basis of image information read by said image reading means, as disclosed in [0001].

21. **Regarding claim 11**, Hideki and Kayzuki disclose everything claimed as applied above (seem claim 4), in addition Hideki discloses the apparatus wherein the link member (42a and 40) or the holding member 33a is provided with a second cam shape, wherein the guide member is provided above the original supporting portion 4 and below a position of the feeding member 10 when the holding member is located at

the feeding stop position (the claw is up) as exhibited in figure 1, wherein the second cam shape is such a shape that an amount of movement of the regulating member (the claw) with respect to the amount of movement of the holding member 33 until the feeding member is protruded downwardly from the guide member when the feeding member feeds out the original is larger than an amount of movement of the regulating member (14) with respect to an amount of movement of the holding member 33 after the feeding member is protruded downwardly from the guide member as exhibited in figure 3.

21. **Regarding claim 12**, Hideki and Kayzuki disclose everything claimed as applied above (seem claim 4), in addition Hideki discloses an apparatus wherein the holding member and the regulating member are provided on the openable and closable cover; and wherein the holding member is moved with respect to the openable and closable cover so that the relative positions of the openable and closable cover and the holding member are changed, and the link member acts on the openable and closable cover so that the regulating member is moved to the retracted position by the movement of the holding member with respect to the openable and closable cover in association with the opening operation of the openable and closable cover as disclosed in [0051]-[0055] and exhibited in figure 1.

5. **Regarding claim 13,** Hideki and Kayzuki disclose everything claimed as applied above (see claim 1) In addition Hideki discloses a sheet feeding apparatus comprising: a sheet supporting portion on which a sheet is placed (Figure 1, item 4, where the manuscript tray is considered a sheet supporting portion; also see [0014]); a feeding

member disposed, above said sheet-supporting portion, for feeding out the sheet. (Figure 1, where pickup roller 10 is the feeding means which is positioned above the sheet supporting means 4); a separating portion for separating the sheet fed out by said feeding member and feeding the sheet one by one (Figure 1, items 11-12); an openable and closable cover having a guide member for guiding the sheet fed out by said feeding member, as disclosed in [0051]-[0054], [0082]-[0083] and exhibited in figure 1; a regulating member provided between said separation portion and said feeding means (Figure 1, item 14, and also known as the stopper claw) and being movable between a regulating position in which said regulating member regulates movement of the sheet between said sheet supporting portion said separating portion and retracted position in which said regulating member does not hamper the feeding of the sheet. (also see [0015]); and a link member (42a and 40 the combination) which is moved by a manual opening movement of the openable and closable cover to move the regulating member to the retracted position when the holding member moves the feeding member to the feeding position and the link member is moved by the holding member to move the regulating member to the regulating position when the holding member is moved to the feeding stop position, as disclosed in [0057]-[0059], and exhibited in figures 3 and 5;

6. However Hideki fails to explicitly disclose that the regulating member is moved by the opening of the cover wherein the link member is manually moved by the opening movement of the openable and closable cover. However it would have obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include such a modification to the invention of Hideki, as taught by Kazyuki.

7. In a similar field of endeavor Kazyuki discloses a device wherein the regulating member 21 is moved by the opening of the cover wherein the link member 22 is manually moved in accordance with the cover, as disclosed in [0020], [0027] and exhibited in figure 4.

8. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include in the sheet feeding apparatus of Hideki, a regulating member which is moved by the opening of the cover wherein the link member is moved by the cover for the purpose of stopping paper jams, the device could be interfaced to another scanner/copier or fax machine and the feeder device may perform stable feeding, as disclosed in Kayuki [0002] and [0027].

9. **Regarding claim 14,** Hideki and Kayzuki disclose everything claimed as applied above (seem claim 13), in addition claim Hideki discloses that the link member and regulating member are mounted on the cover, and that the link member is move in respect to the opening and closing of the cover, so that the regulating member is moved as well. (being instructed by the controller), as disclosed in in [0051]-[0054], [0082]-[0083].

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to BRENDAN MCCOMMAS whose telephone number is (571)270-3575. The examiner can normally be reached on IFP.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Twyler Haskins can be reached on (571)272-7406. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/ Brendan N. MCCommas/
Examiner, Art Unit 2625

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